

Highlights

- ✓ Wichita was one of the first cities in the nation to adopt the Council-Manager form of professional management (1918).
- ✓ The Mayor is the only City official elected at-large.
- ✓ Council members are elected from each of six council districts.
- ✓ The Mayor and Council provide policy direction by enacting ordinances, adopting an annual budget and identifying and prioritizing municipal services.
- ✓ City Council meetings are broadcast locally on Channel 7 each week.

Overview

The City Council provides policy direction for developing and sustaining the health, safety and well being of the community. The Council exercises its authority through the enactment of laws, the adoption of the annual budget, the approval of contracts and specific projects and the approval to pursue grant funds to assist with the vision of the City.

Finance and Operations

The General Fund supports the operations of the City Council and City Manager's Office, with personal services accounting for over 80% of the 2004 Adopted budget. Funding continues for the leadership positions Council members hold with the National League of Cities and other key governmental associations.

The **City Council** establishes policy direction for the City by enacting ordinances, laws, and policies, adopting the budget, levying taxes, and appointing members to the District Advisory Boards (DAB) and other citizen advisory boards and commissions. The seven-member Council is elected to four-year terms on a nonpartisan basis with staggered terms of office. Six Council members are elected by district; the Mayor is elected at-large.

Important achievements of City Council have been to lower the electric rates for Wichita citizens and bring lower airfares to travelers into and out of Wichita. Eastbound AirTran began service in May 2002; westbound Frontier began service in September 2002; and westbound Allegiant Air began daily service in March 2003. Council members also helped lobby successfully for sales tax and revenue (STAR) bond financing for a proposed WaterWalk business and residential area.

The City Council meets on Tuesdays in the Council Chambers. Workshops are usually held for an in-depth study of projects and issues on the fourth Tuesday. The Council Chamber's 2001 remodel project incorporates state-of-the-art technology for the presentation of Council business and reports; provides better accessibility for disabled citizens; improves the quality and functions of the sound system; and provides a more

ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing environment for citizens, Council members and City staff.

The City Council coordinates efforts and establishes relationships with other elected officials at all levels of government. Members of the Council represent the City in several state, national and international organizations.



District Judge Tony Powell administers the oath of office to District IV Council Member Paul Gray

Wichita is an active participant in the Sister Cities International program. The program's goals include enriching community life through exhibits, tours, and exchanges, providing a setting for meeting community leaders from cities around the world, creating opportunities for cultural activities and exchanges, providing host families for visitors from Wichita's Sister Cities and supporting student exchange programs for students from Wichita's Sister Cities.

Wichita's Sister Cities are Tlalneapantla and Cancun, Mexico; Orleans, France; and Kaifeng, China. Council members represent the City both when receiving visitors and when visiting Sister Cities.

The **City Manager's Office** has primary responsibility of maintaining a willingness to listen and react to citizens and the

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Council. Numerous citizen contacts are handled each day in the City Manager's office, ranging from telephone and electronic mail inquiries to faxes. On average, the City Manager's office receives over 250 telephone contacts, 100 faxes, and 100 letters and e-mails per day from citizens and business people requesting information or assistance.

The City Manager's duties include: submitting the annual budget, advising the City Council on matters affecting the City, administering and overseeing City operations and appointing and removing City personnel. The City Manager continually assesses the growing needs of the community to determine if adequate services are available. Numerous public agencies, local organizations and businesses collaborate with the City Manager's office regarding current and potential service needs.

Every year, the City Manager establishes priorities, as communicated by Council, and directs the Finance Department in the development of a budget that is submitted to Council for adoption. The annual budget is a tool utilized to allocate funding for new and existing programs and services, and eliminate ineffective ones to better meet the changing needs of the community.

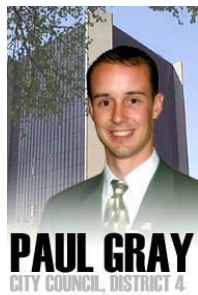
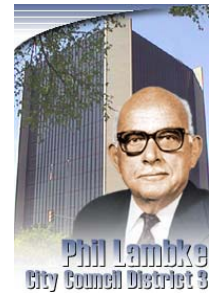
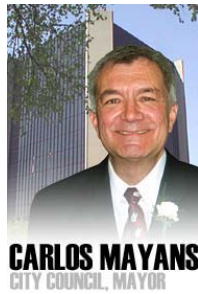
The City Manager's Office assists the Mayor and City Council with special projects and research. Recent projects in which the staff is involved are:

- Implementing a new Joint Nuisance Statement Code.
- Marketing Wichita's tourism attractions in partnership with the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Maintaining operations of the new Neighborhood City Halls - one in each quadrant of the City, except for District II and V. The goal is to decentralize City services and be more responsive to neighborhood and citizens needs.

Additional duties include preparing agendas for weekly Council meetings, staffing various boards, commissions, and task forces, and the overseeing of all departments' programs and activities.



The City Council Chamber was remodeled in 2001 to provide a more ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing environment for citizens and Council members.



City Council/City Manager Department Budget Summary

	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2003 Revised	2004 Adopted	2005 Approved
Personal Services	828,287	899,820	830,960	859,530	872,620
Contractuals	141,897	149,460	147,130	143,340	143,340
Commodities	22,348	25,050	25,050	25,050	25,050
Other	0	7,750	7,750	7,750	7,750
Total Local Expenditures	992,532	1,082,080	1,010,890	1,035,670	1,048,760
City Council	482,681	578,040	552,000	569,590	577,370
City Manager's Office	509,851	504,040	458,890	466,080	471,390
General Fund	992,532	1,082,080	1,010,890	1,035,670	1,048,760
Total Full-time positions	15	15	15	15	15
Total Part-time positions	0	0	0	0	0
Total FTE positions	15	15	15	15	15



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FLIGHT



"Barnstormin'"

Artist: Janet & Greg Sullivan
Sandy & Mark Monroe
Where: Sedgwick County Courthouse
525 N. Main (Central & Mian)
Sponsor: Sedgwick County
Benefits: Old Town Museum

"Toolin' Around"

Artist: Geoffrey Kisch
Where: 741 W. 2nd Street
(2nd Street & McLean Blvd.)
Sponsor: Key Construction, Inc.
Benefits: Boy Scouts of America -
Quivira Council



"Nexus"

Artist: Northeast Magnet Art Dept.
Where: Botanica
701 Amidon
Sponsor: Cox Communications
Benefits: Northeast Magnet High
School Art Department